

HISTORY OF THE NAVAL ROTC UNIT AND DEPARTMENT OF NAVAL SCIENCE
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

The association between the U. S. Navy and The Ohio State University can be traced to the year 1881. Under an act of Congress dated 26 February 1879, the then President of the United States, Chester A. Arthur, was authorized to detail an officer of the Engineering Corps of the United States Navy as a professor to scientific schools or colleges in the United States. Application was made by the Board of Trustees of The Ohio State University on 23 September 1881. Documents attesting to the scientific character of the University, accompanied the application which was presented to President Arthur by the Honorable George L. Converse, member of Congress from the 12th District of Ohio. In due time, acknowledgment was received from the President, indicating that the matter had been forwarded to the Secretary of the Navy for his consideration.

On 20 June 1882, Assistant Engineer, F. A. Eldridge, U. S. Navy, appeared before the Board of Trustees and presented his orders from the Secretary of the Navy detailing him as professor in The Ohio State University. Engineer Eldridge was accepted by the Board and appointed Assistant Professor of Physics.

The present NROTC program at The Ohio State University is a direct outgrowth of a pilot program initially formulated in the early 1920's. In 1925, Congress passed legislation authorizing the establishment of the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps -- a program by which college students could be prepared for officer commissions while pursuing their academic studies. The Bureau of Navigation (now called The Bureau of Naval Personnel) had canvassed the larger educational institutions, including The Ohio State University, two years previously, to determine where units could be established. The

initial choices of schools were, however, limited to those close to a large body of water. Plans were eventually approved for the establishment of NROTC Units at The University of California, Georgia Institute of Technology, Harvard University, Northwestern University, University of Washington, and Yale University.

On 15 August 1926, the first NROTC Unit was officially established at The University of California under the command of then Commander Chester W. Nimitz, U. S. Navy, who later rose to Fleet Admiral during World War II. The NROTC program was gradually expanded, and During W W II, it became a part of the enormous wartime Naval College Training Program. In 1945, as a result of the findings of a Naval board headed by Rear Admiral James L. Holloway, the NROTC program was expanded to additional universities under what became known as the Holloway Plan. The Holloway Plan proposed that the Navy pay a substantial portion of the cost of an NROTC student's college education. In return, the student would agree to accept a Regular commission and serve on active duty for a specific time. Up to then, the NROTC was essentially a source of officers for the Naval Reserve. From this time forward, the NROTC was to assume the responsibility of also training men who would make the Navy their professional career. Under the plan, two types of students, Regular and Contract, were provided for. The "Regular" students are those who receive a Navy-subsidized education and agree to accepted regular commission upon graduation. These students are selected through national competitive examination and are appointed as Midshipmen, USNR. The subsidization -- tuition, books, laboratory fees, uniforms, and a tax free stipend of \$50 per month -- apparently evolved originally from the thirty cents per day subsistence allowance paid to the first NROTC students in the 1920's

The "Contract" students are those who enter into a contract with The Secretary of the Navy to complete the required naval science courses without Navy financial assistance, except for a \$50.00 per month stipend during the junior and senior years, and to accept a naval reserve commission upon graduation. These students are selected locally at each NROTC Unit by the Professor of Naval Science from among the enrolled student body.

Immediately after the enactment of the Holloway Plan, the Navy received Congressional approval to establish 25 additional NROTC Units. From the 98 educational institutions applying for NROTC Units, a special board was convened by the Secretary of the Navy to select the 25. This special board approved The Ohio State University to be one of the 25 institutions.

Initial contact by the Navy with The Ohio State University was made during 15-16 August 1945 when an inspection of university facilities was made by a party of 12 naval officers headed by Captain A. S. Adams of the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

On September 6, 1945, Howard L. Bevis, then President of The Ohio State University, announced to the press that a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit would be established at the University with the beginning of the fall quarter, 2 October 1945. The midshipmen student body would consist of 200 previously selected enlisted men who were scheduled to arrive on campus on 22 September 1945. All selectees were high school graduates and were selected on the basis of high scholastic ability. Upon arrival on campus, the men were housed in the gymnasium and messed in the stadium dormitory. The first classes for this group commenced on 2 October 1945.

In the shadows of The Ohio State Stadium, the first class commenced their training. It seemed appropriate that the Navy should pick the

picturesque Armory, on the site of the present Mershon Auditorium as headquarters for its Unit. The Armory resembled Fort Severn where, over 100 years ago, the U. S. Naval Academy had been established. Since no new buildings were built to house the Navy men, makeshift provisions had to be made in available space. Wartime conditions existed. The daily routine and movements of the enlisted personnel "turned midshipmen" was fairly well regulated.

The Midshipmen were up at 6:00 a.m. and their day commenced with a half-hour of calisthenics, followed by breakfast in the Stadium dorm. At 0740, classes started. The midshipmen were granted "campus liberty" from 7 to 10 in the evening and off campus liberty from 7 to 10 on Wednesday only. The midshipmen rapidly acclimatized to campus life and laid the initial foundation for the high reputation that the NROTC Unit at The Ohio State University presently enjoys.

The new Department of Naval Science was housed in the Armory. The Commanding Officer of the new Navy Unit was Captain John D. Shaw, USN. To assist Captain Shaw, the Navy assigned 11 officers and 14 enlisted men as his administrative staff. Before the new NROTC Unit had completed its first year's operation, word was received from the Navy Department that the Unit would revert to peacetime status. June 17, 1946, was set as the date for revision.

The first post-war competitive examinations for entrance into the Regular NROTC Program were administered on 19 January 1947. A total of 2400 applications were received from Ohio students, including 121 applications from students enrolled at The Ohio State University. On 29 September 1947, 51 of the final selectees were sworn into the NROTC Program at The Ohio State University and the first post-war class was underway. To date, over

700 Ohio State University students have successfully completed the requirements of the NROTC Program and have been commissioned as officers in the Navy and Marine Corps.

A program of inviting faculty members to accompany midshipmen on field trips and summer cruises was inaugurated in the 1950's. One of the first to accompany Ohio State midshipmen was John B. Fullen, alumni secretary. Mr. Fullen sailed aboard the battleship USS IOWA from San Diego to Honolulu. The custom is continued to this day, but now is normally restricted to field trips to training bases within the continental United States.

In the spring of 1957, the first group of Ohio State NROTC midshipmen participated in an Aviation Indoctrination Field Trip to the Naval Air Advanced Training Command, Corpus Christi, Texas. As originally conceived, NROTC aviation field indoctrination tours were intended to provide naval aviation orientation training for those NROTC Contract midshipmen denied the opportunity for a formalized summer cruise at a naval aviation activity. At the present time, both Regular and Contract NROTC midshipmen participate in the Aviation/Amphibious summer. This revision in the training cycle became effective for the class of '72.

In the early morning hours of Saturday, 17 May 1958, a major catastrophe struck the Unit. The Armory housing the NROTC Unit caught fire. Before the fire could be brought under control, it had completely gutted the upper floor, causing over \$250,000 damage. The decision was made by the Board of Trustees to demolish the building and move the NROTC Unit to the South Annex of the Physical Education Building, where the Unit is still housed.

In March, 1961, the first field trip was conducted to the Marine Corps Schools at Quantico, Virginia. Seventeen midshipmen participated. The trip is conducted each year.

In November, 1961, The Ohio State University Unit was selected as one of the 33 units eligible to have their students participate in the Flight Indoctrination Program. The program offered in conjunction with The Ohio State University Aviation Department included both ground school and flight time in both dual and solo flying.

The NROTC Unit at The Ohio State University usually has over 300 students although controlled by a limited quota. Approximately onehalf of this number are full scholarship midshipmen.

The present course offerings include courses in:

Principles of Naval Organization and Administration

Introduction to Naval Ships Systems

Seapower and Maritime Affairs

Naval Operations

Celestial Navigation

Naval Engineering

Evolution of Land and Amphibious Warfare

Leadership and the Uniform Code of Military Justice

Naval Weapons Systems

In addition to the above courses, newly enrolled NROTC students are required to complete a one quarter course in American Military Affairs and a one quarter course in National Security Policy before graduation. Students enrolled in engineering, physics, chemistry, mathematics, and education with teaching majors in mathematics and physical science must complete three quarters of calculus or statistics; three quarters of physics or chemistry or biological science or earth science; and one quarter of computer science by the end of the third year in the NROTC Program.

A 2 year NROTC Program was added in 1965 to afford the student at the sophomore or graduate level the opportunity to pursue a commission in the USNR or the USMC reserve while he completes the requirements for his degree -- undergraduate or graduate.

The current NROTC curriculum is the result of action taken by the Navy on recommendations made by NROTC colleges and universities. The curriculum represents what the Navy considers to be a good balance between technical Naval subjects taught by professional naval officers and regular University courses taught by civilian faculty.

Encl: (1) Professors of Naval Science
(2) Executive Officers, NROTC Unit
(3) Student activities sponsored by NROTC Unit

PROFESSORS OF NAVAL SCIENCE AND
COMMANDING OFFICERS, NROTC UNIT, THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

<u>NAME/RANK AT TIME OF COMMAND</u>	<u>PERIOD OF COMMAND</u>
CAPT JOHN D. SHAW, USN	SEP 1945 - JUL 1948
CAPT DONALD F. MC LEAN, USN	JUL 1948 - JUN 1951
LTCOL JAMES N. M. DAVIS, USMC (Acting)	JUN 1951 - AUG 1951
CAPT JEANE R. CLARK, USN	AUG 1951 - JUL 1954
CAPT JAMES A. JORDAN, USN	JUL 1954 - JUN 1957
CDR HERMAND P. KOOY, USN (Acting)	JUN 1957 - AUG 1957
CAPT CHARLES E. MC COMBS, USN	AUG 1957 - OCT 1959
CAPT THOMAS D. KEEGAN, USN	OCT 1959 - JUN 1962
LTCOL ALEX H. SAWYER, USMC (Acting)	JUN 1962 - AUG 1962
CAPT JOSEPH W. BEADLES, JR., USN	AUG 1962 - AUG 1965
CAPT WILBUR J. WERMAYER, USN	AUG 1965 - JUL 1969

ENCLOSURE (2)

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, NROTC UNIT, THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

<u>NAME/RANK AT TIME OF ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>PERIOD OF ASSIGNMENT</u>
CDR THOMAS D. F. LANGEN, USN	JAN 1947 - JUN 1949
LCDR HARTSEL D. ALLEN, USN	JAN 1949 - AUG 1949
LTCOL JAMES N. M. DAVIS, USMC	AUG 1949 - JUL 1952
LCDR JOHN B. FLYNN, USNR	JUL 1952 - SEP 1953
CDR ISAAC J. HEIZER, USN	SEP 1953 - JUL 1955
CDR HERMAN P. KOOY, USN	JUL 1955 - SEP 1958
CDR THEODORE F. MARX, USN	SEP 1958 - JUL 1961
LTCOL ALEX H. SAWYER, USMC	AUG 1961 - AUG 1964
CDR HAROLD J. BAIRD, USN	AUG 1964 - NOV 1967
LTCOL J. R. GALLMAN, USMC	JUL 1967 - PRESENT

MIDSHIPMEN ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY THE UNIT

MIDSHIPMAN COUNCIL

ANCHOR AND CHAIN SOCIETY

SEAWOLF

NROTC RIFLE AND PISTOL TEAM

NROTC GLEE CLUB (HIGH SEAS)

DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS

NROTC DRILL TEAM

NROTC AVIATION CLUB

NROTC SOFTBALL TEAM

NROTC BASKETBALL TEAM

NROTC FOOTBALL TEAM

NROTC SWIMMING TEAM